

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3315
ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2026**

TOLL COLLECTION ON NH-66 IN KERALA

3315. SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received reports of structural failures including sinking service roads and cracked main carriageways on the newly opened Thalassery Mahe Bypass and the Chengala Neeleshwaram stretches of National Highway (NH)-66;

(b) if so, the justification for allowing the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to continue toll collection at plazas such as Kollassery and Arikady when the road infrastructure fails to meet the prescribed safety and quality standards;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the Kerala High Court ruling of August 2025 that toll collection is contingent upon provision of motorable and safe roads;

(d) whether any audit has been conducted to verify if these stretches meet the "quid pro quo" principle of service-based tolling and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government would consider immediate suspension of toll fees on these affected stretches until the debarred contractors complete the necessary rectification works and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)**

(a) In respect of Thalassery–Mahe Bypass (18.6 Km), after completion and opening of the stretch to traffic in March 2024, no structural failures have been observed.

In respect of Chengala–Neeleshwaram stretch, the project is under construction and about 86% progress has been achieved. During construction, cracks observed on Dense Bituminous Macadam (DBM) layer, were rectified by Concessionaire at his own cost. Further, scouring of a portion of the Service Road occurred at one location due to non-continuity of the drain, and the same has also been rectified by Concessionaire at his own cost.

(b) User fee collection on National Highways is carried out in accordance with the applicable policy of the Government of India and the provisions of the Concession Agreement. The details are as follows:

(i) Arikkady Fee Plaza: It was established as a temporary fee plaza for the completed stretch from Talappady to Chengala stretch, having a length of approximately 39 km. User fee collection at Arikkady Fee Plaza has been suspended with effect from 04.02.2026.

(ii) Thiruvangad Fee Plaza: It has been established for the completed stretch of Thalassery–Mahe Bypass. The project stretch has been opened to traffic and user fee collection is in progress from 11.03.2024.

(c) & (d) Prior to issuance of the Provisional Completion Certificate and opening of the completed stretch to traffic, quality tests and safety audit are mandatory. These are conducted through the Independent Engineer and Supervision Consultant, in accordance with the provisions of the Concession Agreement and guidelines issued from time to time.

(e) Defects noticed on ongoing construction stretches of NH-66, where works are still in progress, where tolling has not commenced are rectified at the cost of concessionaire before issue of provisional certificate of completion and commencement of tolling. Defects noticed on sections of NH-66 presently under tolling are rectified immediately in terms of contractual provisions.
